

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TAGS: PLSB, ILO
SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE: CLAT SPOKESMAN HELD
OUT OF ORDER, AND DELEGATIONS ADMONISHED STATES ARE
NOT TO BE SPECIFIED IN CRITICISMS IN PLENARY STATEMENTS

1. CONFERENCE PRESIDENT AMEDUME CLOSED THE MORNING
SITTING OF PLENARY JUNE 13 WITH AN ADMONITION THAT
MEMBER STATES ARE NOT TO BE SPECIFIED IN CRITICISMS
EXPRESSED DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE. HE DIRECTED
ATTENTION TO THE DEPARTURE FROM THIS PROCEDURE JUNE 10
(BY LATIN AMERICAN CENTRAL OF WORKERS SPOKESMAN MOLINA)
AND ENDORSED THE INTERVENTION MADE BY THE VICE PRESIDENT
FUNCTIONING AS PRESIDING OFFICER AT THAT SITTING, US
WORKERS REPRESENTATIVE IRVING BROWN. HE CONCURRED
ALSO IN BROWN'S DECISION NOT TO ENTERTAIN WHAT COULD HAVE
BEEN A LENGTHY SEQUENCE OF STATEMENTS UNDER THE RULE OF
RIGHT TO REPLY. AMEDUME MENTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT
REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER STATES NAMED IN THE MOLINA
STATEMENT HAD NOW PROTESTED ABOUT IT.

2. THE MOLINA SPEECH JULY 10 BEGAN WITH A THINLY
VEILED ATTACK ON THE US, URGING THAT THE PRESENT PAN
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AMERICAN REGION OF ILO BE REPLACED BY A LATIN AMERICAN
REGION TO REMOVE THE "INTERFERENCE" OF THE COUNTRIES
OF NORTH AMERICA. MOLINA CHARACTERIZED THE PRESENT
PAN AMERICAN SYSTEM AS ONE WHICH "HAS HISTORICALLY SERVED
AND STILL SERVES THE INTERESTS OF IMPERIALISM AGAINST
THE LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS AND CLAIMS OF THE WORKERS
AND PEOPLES OF LATIN AMERICA." AS PRESIDING OFFICER,

GROWN INTERVENED AT THIS POINT TO ADMONISH MOLINA NOT TO ATTACK ANY PERSON OR ANY COUNTRY, AND STATED HE WOULD RULE HIM OUT OF ORDER IF HE DID SO.

3. MOVING FROM TARGET TO TARGET MOLINA FINALLY ZEROED IN EXPLICITLY ON (A) CLAT RECOMMENDATIONS THAT ILO FACT-FINDING COMMISSIONS BE DESPATCHED TO ARGENTINA, PARAGUAY, URUGUAY, BOLIVIA AND BRAZIL, AND (B) CLAT CALLS FOR INQUIRIES INTO HUMAN AND TRADE UNION RIGHTS IN HAITI, NICARAGUA, GUATEMALA, EL SALVADOR, CUBA AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. HE ANNOUNCED THAT DURING THE CONGRESS OF CLAT IN NOVEMBER IN COSTA RICA THE ORGANIZATION WILL HOLD A FIRST CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION.

4. BROWN WITHHELD INTERVENING UNTIL MOLINA HAD INCLUDED, AND THEN EXPLAINED THAT THE INTERPRETATION INCORRECTLY HAD GIVEN HIM THE IMPRESSION THAT MOLINA HAD REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO A COUNTRY AT THE TIME WHEN HE FIRST HAD INTERRUPTED HIM. BROWN POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THE SPEAKER HAD GONE ON THEREAFTER TO NAME COUNTRIES AND "ALTHOUGH MANY MAY BE IN SYMPATHY WITH HIS OBJECTIVE" THE RULES SET OUT BY THE PRESIDENT ARE THAT COUNTRIES AND INDIVIDUALS ARE NOT TO BE NAMED IN SPECIFIC ATTACKS. CUBA WAS THE MOST PROMINENT IN OBJECTING TO MOLINA'S ATTACKS, BUT OTHERS HAVE BEEN ADDING THEIR OBJECTIONS.

5. COMMENT. UNDER THE RULES, OBLIQUE REFERENCES TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SPECIFIC COUNTRIES ARE WITHIN THE BALLPARK, WHILE EXPLICIT REFERENCES ARE NOT. THUS, MOLINA WAS HOME FREE ON THIS ASPERSION AT THE EXPENSE OF THE US, BUT NOT IN HIS HAILSTORM OF CRITICISM OF THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES HE CITED BY NAME THEREAFTER. THE PRESIDENT'S REAFFIRMATION OF THE RULE JUNE 13 FOLLOWED THE FINAL SPEAKER OF THE MORNING SITTING, THE TANZANIAN WORKER DELGATE WHO DECRIED THE "MILITARY REGIMES" OF SOUTHERN AFRICA WHICH PREVENTED THE AFRICAN CONTINENT FROM YET BEING FREE. HE OMITTED TO GIVE HIS STATEMENT A LABOR TWIST, BUT REMAINED WITHIN THE BALLPARK UNDER THE RULES. SORENSON

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